

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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SAM-01 DRC-01 /104 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6564

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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USIA WASHDC

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GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, URFR

SUBJECT: YURIY ZHUKOV TV INTERVIEW ON SOLZHENITSYN

REF: PARIS 1993

1. IN PARIS TV INTERVIEW EVENING OF JAN. 31, PRAVDA
CORRESPONDENT YURIY ZHUKOV INDICATED SOVIET AUTHORITIES
WOULD NOT PROSECUTE SOLZHENITSY., REPEATING THE STATEMENT
HE HAD MADE ON SOVIET TV JAN. 9 THAT SOLZHENITSY WOULD
LIKE TO BECOME A MARTYR, HE ADDED THE CONCLUSION "BUT WE
WILL NOT GIVE HIM THAT POSSIBILITY." ZHUKOV, WHO IS IN
TOWN WITH SUPREME SOVIET FRIENDSHIP GROUP, SPOKE IN HALT-
ING BUT ADEQUATE FRENCH DURING INTERVIEW ON SECOND CHANNEL.
IN A RATHER CURIOUS SUBJECTIVE NOTE, HE DECLARED THAT
SOLZHENITSYN WAS HIS "PERSONAL ENEMY" AS WELL AS "THE
ENEMY OF ALL SOVIETS." BURDEN OF HIS COMMENT WAS THAT
MISTAKES OF THE PAST HAD BEEN CORRECTED AND THAT
SOLZHENITSYN WAS WRONG IN ATTRIBUTING THEM TO THE SOVIET
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SYSTEM AND TO LENIN. ACCORDING TO ZHUKOV, "THIS IS A

DIRECT ATTACK AGAINST THAT WHICH IS THE MOST SACRED IN THE SOVIET UNION." ZHUKOV BRIEFLY CRITICIZED DEUTSCHE WELLE AND VOA FOR THEIR TREATMENT OF SOLZHENITSYN MATERIAL.

2. IN OTHER PORTIONS OF INTERVIEW, ZHUKOV CITED BREZHNEV IN CLAIMING SOVIETS FAVORED FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. HE ALSO LAUDED FRENCH ROLE IN DETENTE, DECLARING THAT DETENTE WAS AT A "POINT OF NO RETURN."

3. COMMENT. PERHAPS RELATED TO ZHUKOV'S VISIT, ON FEB. 1 L'HUMANITE PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES CRITICIZING SOLZHENITSYN'S TREATMENT OF THE VLASOV MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, PCF COMMENT CONTINUES TO BE LESS VIRULENT THAN SOVIET ATTACKS ON SOLZHENITSYN (REFTEL). AS TO ZHUKOV'S ACTIVITIES IN PARIS, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR DUFOURCQ TOLD EMBOFF JA. 30 THAT HE WAS SEEING A NUMBER OF FRENCH POLITICAL FIGURES AND THAT LUNCH HAD BEEN GIVEN BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO DUFOURCQ, QUAI WAS NOT PRIVY TO INFORMATION ON THESE CONTACTS.
STONE

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